GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:61
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2001
WTO CONDITIONS FOR USE OF PESTICIDES
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have noticed the various sanitary phytosanitary conditions of W.T.O. with regard to use of pesticides;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have apprised the users of those conditions and made efforts to reduce the use of such pesticides; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.61 DUE FOR REPLY ON 26TH JULY, 2001.

(a) to (c): W.T.O. has not prescribed any specific conditions with regard to the use of pesticides. However, modalities/guidelines have been prescribed under Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement which has been signed by the members of W.T.O. for the assessment of risk and determination of appropriate levels of sanitary and phytosanitary protection concering food safety, animal and plant health. For increasing the awareness about W.T.O. and Sanitary and Phytosanitary agreement among the users, the matter has been discussed in Conferences/Workshos/Seminars to which State ChiefMinisters/Agriculture Ministers/Senior officials of State Govts./UTs/Non- Government/Farmers Organizations etc. were invited.

In order to reduce the use of pesticides in the country, the Central Govt. has been reviewing the effects of the use of various pesticides. As a result of that 37 pesticides have already been banned/restricted for use in the country. With a view to restricting the use of pesticides, Government have adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the main plank of plant protection. The IPM encompasses use of various methods viz., cultural, mechanical, biological and need-based use of safe chemical pesticides/bio-pesticides by the farmers. Since 1994, 1,072 Master Trainers, 28,459 Agricultural Extension Officers and 2,03,032 farmers have been trained on IPM through 33 Season Long Training Programmes and 6,733 Farmers` Field Schools in rice, cotton, oilseeds, pulses, vegetables, etc. As a result of these efforts, there has been a reduction in the use of pesticides in agriculture from 61,357 MT, (Technical Grade) during 1994-95 to 46,195 MT (Technical Grade) during 1999-2000.